

POWER AND CONTROL – CRITICAL OVERVIEW

1. MODULE SUMMARY

Aims and Summary

The conventional accounts of power are mostly limited to the boundaries of states, law, public institutions, international organizations or political doctrines. However, they very often neglect the fact that power can be strongly embedded in other human relations, which are not always seen as a power relation precisely because they exceed the formal area of control. The module approach aims at analytical opening to a wide range of phenomena which exert today a great deal of control on human beings, while they are not always presented in terms of the power relations by the conventional political analyses. Particular attention will be paid to understanding the way people are being engaged in contemporary forms of entertainment and consumption; how they are subject to different forms of surveillance in daily life ranging from the Internet through the media to the urban space; or last but not least how their lives are being constantly framed within and disciplined by the different forms of corporate management and governance (e.g. by catchy phrases like ‘risk management’, ‘audit practices’ or ‘expert rule’ etc.). All these practices are often presented as neutral and inevitable in the ‘globalized world’ and they are just taken for granted by political scientists in their analyses. Therefore, the module will focus on uncovering how these practices could be seen as power relations; in what way they strengthen or undermine the democratic premises of contemporary societies; and how they are being resisted by some people. It will give students a general critical overview on different contemporary forms of power and control.

Module Size and credits

CATS points	10.0
ECTS credits	5.0
Total student study hours	100
Number of weeks	12
School responsible	Łazarski University, Faculty of Economics and Management
Academic Year	2022-2023

Entry Requirements (pre-requisites and co-requisites)

N/A

Excluded Combinations

None

Composition of module mark (including weighting of components)

Coursework 60%, composed of paper

Final exam 40%

Pass requirements

To pass the course a student must score at least 40% of the overall weighted average and not less than 35% for each assessment component (i.e. final exam and coursework). Re-assessment: coursework component(s) and/or examination as appropriate.

Special Features

None

Course stages for which this module is mandatory

BA Year 3 International Relations (level 6)

Course stages for which this module is a core option

None

2. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of different types of power and control
2. Evaluate the role of contemporary means of controlling people
3. Explain the mechanisms of power relations beyond the formal/legal area
4. Analyse the political actions conducted in the name of entertainment, consumption or management and security of people
5. Assess critically strands, tendencies and developments connected with contemporary forms of power and control

Indicative Content

PART I – ENTERTAINMENT AND CONSUMPTION

- Public Sphere and Journalism
- Show Business
- Reality show
- Consumption

PART II – MANAGING PEOPLE

- Disciplinary society
- Technology
- Expert rule
- Audit management

PART III – FREEDOM VS. SECURITY

- Risk society
- Surveillance practices
- Urban control

Teaching and Learning

This module will be taught by means of seminars, workshops, and self-directed study.

Formative Assessment: Comments will be given on assessments, and tutorial guidance will be provided for coursework and exam.

Student activity and time spent on each activity comprises:

Guided	0 hours	(0%)
Lecture	0 hours	(0%)
Self-guided	60 hours	(60%)
Seminar	30 hours	(30%)
Workshop	10 hours	(10%)
Total	100 hours	

Method of Assessment (normally assessed as follows)

The intended learning outcomes will be assessed as follows:

Paper (60% – 6 Credits): 3000 words; contributes to learning outcomes 4, 5

Final exam (40% – 4 Credits): 120 minutes; contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Re-sit

Students failing any component of assessment, at the first attempt, are entitled to one re-sit attempt. This will be by new examination and/or new coursework scheduled for the next assessment opportunity. For coursework, if more than one element existed in the first attempt, this may be combined into one assessment for re-sit

Date of last amendment

25-10-2016

3. MODULE RESOURCES

Essential Reading

Graham, S., 2010. *Cities Under the Siege*. New York: Verso.

Recommended Reading

Adam, B., Beck, U., van Loon, J., 2000. *The Risk Society and Beyond: Critical Issues for Social Theory*. London: SAGE.

Bourdieu, P., 1996. *On Television*. New York: New Press.

Christensen, L.T., Cornelissen, J., 2015. Organizational transparency as myth and metaphor. *European Journal of Social Theory*, 18(2), pp.132–149.

Foucault, M., 1995 or later editions. *Discipline and Punish*. London: Taylor and Francis.

Lyon, D., 2011. *Surveillance Society: Monitoring Everyday Life*. Buckingham: Open Univ. Press.

Goold, B.J., 2004. *CCTV and Policing: Public Area Surveillance and Police Practices in Britain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Postman, N., 1992. *Technopoly. The Surrender of Culture to Technology*. New York : Knopf.

Required Equipment

None

4. MODULE ORGANISATION

Module leader

Name Margaryta Khvostova

E-mail m.khvostova@lazarski.edu.pl

Length and month of examination

120 minutes in June

Expected teaching timetable slots

Note that some tutorials/seminars may be provided at times other than those shown below. Timetable information should be verified with the School responsible for the module

No timetable information available

Subject Quality and Approval information

Board of Study Faculty Collaborative Provision Committee

Subject Assessment Board Faculty Council, Faculty of Economics and Management

Shortened title

Date of approval by FCPC 15 February 2017